

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 11-47 As Amended

Introduced by Council President Boniface at the request of the County Executive and Council Member McMahan

Legislative Day No. 11-21 Date October 4, 2011

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Article XII, Commission on Veterans' Affairs, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to provide for a more diverse and expanded membership reflecting the growth of the County in the 21st Century, post-September 11, 2001; and generally relating to the Commissions on Veterans' Affairs.

By the Council, October 4, 2011

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: November 1, 2011

at: 7:00 PM

By Order: Pamela Meester, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on November 1, 2011, and concluded on November 1, 2011.

Pamela Meester, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Article XII, Commission on Veterans' Affairs, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

Chapter 9. Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies

Part 2. Nonbinding Advisory Boards

Article XII. Commission on Veterans' Affairs

[§ 9-75. Creation.

There is a Commission on Veterans' Affairs consisting of 18 members.

§ 9-76. Membership.

A. Except as provided in Subsection B(2) of this section, members of the Commission shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council in accordance with the Charter of Harford County.

B. The Commission members shall be:

- (1) A chairperson who is, pursuant to the guidelines of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a qualified veteran;
- (2) A County citizen appointed by the County Council;
- (3) A County citizen who owns or operates a local business or is an employee of a local business, recommended by the Harford County Chamber of Commerce;
- (4) A County citizen who is an educator or educational administrator, recommended by Harford Community College;
- (5) One member from each of the following organizations, as recommended by the organization:
 - (a) The Veterans of Foreign Wars, as recommended by the Harford District Office;

- (b) The American Legion, as recommended by the Harford District Office;
- (c) AMVETS;
- (d) Disabled American Veterans;
- (e) Purple Heart Veterans;
- (f) The Catholic War Veterans;
- (g) Vietnam Veterans of America;
- (h) Korean War Veterans Association;
- (i) Women's Army Air Corps Association;
- (j) Retired Officers Association;
- (k) North Maryland Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War;
- (l) Polish Legion of American Veterans;
- (m) Marine Corps League; and
- (n) United Female Veterans of America.

§ 9-77. Duties; terms; vacancies; removal.

A. The duties of the Commission are:

- (1) To establish a forum for all Harford County veterans of military services, without regard to race, creed, gender, organizational affiliation, political or economic status;
- (2) To maintain coordinated communication with County and local governments, businesses and veterans of the County; and
- (3) To provide assistance, guidance and information to the business and academic communities and the government to ensure adequate consideration of veterans in employment, education, training and public programs.

B. The term of each member is coterminous with that of the County Executive.

C. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner of original appointment.

D. A member may be removed only for cause by the County Executive, subject to the approval of the County Council.

§ 9-78. Salaries and compensation.

The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

§ 9-79. Adoption of regulations.

The Commission shall adopt such regulations as deemed necessary to govern its procedures and business.

Such regulations shall be adopted in accordance with Section 807 of the Charter of Harford County.

§ 9-80. Annual reports.

On or before November 11 of each year, the Commission shall submit a report to the County Executive and the County Council on its accomplishments for the preceding year and goals for the upcoming year.

§ 9-81. Meetings.

The Commission shall meet at least once a month, at the times and places that it determines.]

§ 9-75. CREATION.

THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS CONSISTING OF 13 MEMBERS.

§ 9-76. MEMBERSHIP.

A. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL, EXCEPT FOR THE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL.

B. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL APPOINT 8 MEMBERS WHO ARE VETERANS AND MAY BE A MEMBER OF A VETERANS' GROUP SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA;
- (2) NAVY-MARINE CORPS LEAGUE;
- (3) DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS;
- (4) VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS;
- (5) WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS VETERANS ASSOCIATION;
- (6) AMERICAN LEGION;
- (7) MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART;
- (8) MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA; OR
- (9) IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA.

C. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL ALSO APPOINT 4 MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE
GENERAL PUBLIC.

D. THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL APPOINT 1 MEMBER TO SERVE.

E. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL DESIGNATE THE FOLLOWING AS EX-OFFICIO
MEMBERS:

- (1) THE GARRISON COMMANDER OF ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, OR THE
COMMANDER'S DESIGNEE;
- (2) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE FAMILIAR
WITH VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL ISSUES; AND
- (3) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HARFORD COUNTY CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

F. THE TERM OF EACH MEMBER SHALL BE COTERMINOUS WITH THAT OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

G. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRPERSON, AND THE

MEMBERS SHALL DESIGNATE THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY.

H. IN THE EVENT AN APPOINTMENT IS MADE TO FILL A VACANCY BEFORE A TERM EXPIRES, THE SUCCESSOR SHALL SERVE THE REST OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM.

§ 9-77. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION ARE:

- (1) TO RESEARCH, ASSEMBLE, ANALYZE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS RELATING TO ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL ASSIST IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES;
- (2) TO INSTITUTE AND CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER PROGRAMS, MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS;
- (3) TO ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN THE STATE AND COUNTY RELATED TO THE NEEDS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND
- (4) TO ASSIST IN PLANNING APPROPRIATE PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY VETERANS AND ASSIST IN PLANNING COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY VETERANS.

§ 9-78. STAFF, MEETING COMPENSATION.

A. THE COUNTY MAY PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION.

B. THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE CALLED BY THE CHAIRPERSON.

THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY TO PERFORM ITS

DUTIES BUT NOT LESS THAN 9 TIMES PER YEAR.

C. A MEMBER MAY BE REMOVED ONLY FOR CAUSE BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

D. ANY MEMBER MISSING THREE CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE TERMINATED HIS OR HER MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMISSION UNLESS THE COMMISSION SHALL, BY MAJORITY VOTE, EXCUSE ONE OR MORE OF THE ABSENCES.

E. THE MEMBERS SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICE BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES.

§ 9-79. ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS.

THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT SUCH REGULATIONS AS DEEMED NECESSARY TO GOVERN ITS PROCEDURES AND BUSINESS. SUCH REGULATIONS SHALL BE ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 807 OF THE CHARTER OF HARFORD COUNTY.

§ 9-80. ANNUAL REPORT.

THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON ITS FUNCTIONS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCY BY ~~JANUARY~~ JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR.

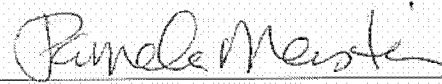
§ 9-81. ADVOCACY.

THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT ENGAGE IN ANY ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES AT THE STATE OR FEDERAL LEVELS UNLESS APPROVED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: January 9, 2012

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela Merstein", written over a horizontal line.

Council Administrator

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 11-47 As Amended

Brief Title Veterans Commission

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Pamela Meister
Council Administrator

Date November 8, 2011

ENROLLED

Billy Bonifant
Council President

Date November 8, 2011

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 11-25

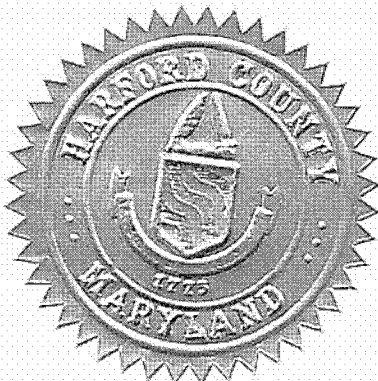
Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Pamela Meister
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 9th day of November, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Pamela Meister
Council Administrator



BY THE EXECUTIVE

David R. Craig
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date November 10, 2011

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 11-47 As Amended, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on November 10, 2011.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 9, 2012

Pamela Meister
Pamela Meister
Council Administrator